

CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

1-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A system for inserting a sling through a vaginal incision to treat a patient's incontinence comprising:

a sling having two end portions;

at least two sling anchors associated with each of the end portions of the sling, the sling anchors comprising a cylindrical body having a diameter, a length that is greater than the diameter, and a bore extending through the cylindrical body that secures the sling anchors to the end portions of the sling to anchor the sling to internal soft tissues, ligaments or fascia of the patient; and

a sling anchor inserter sized and shaped to hold one end of each sling anchor adjacent the bore and to internally insert the sling anchors through a vaginal incision and into internal soft tissues, ligaments or fascia near an inner surface of the patient's descending rami.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 17 wherein the sling comprises a substantially rectangular, synthetic material.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17 wherein the sling anchor inserter is sized and shaped to internally insert the sling anchors into internal soft tissues, ligaments or fascia near the patient's descending rami.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) A system for treating a patient's incontinence comprising:
a synthetic sling having two end portions;
at least two sling anchors secured to the end portions of the sling, the sling anchors comprising a cylindrical body having a diameter, a length that is greater than the diameter, and a bore extending perpendicularly through a midpoint along the length of the cylindrical body, the sling anchors adapted to anchor the sling to internal soft tissues, ligaments or fascia of the patient; and
a sling anchor inserter adapted to insert the sling anchors into internal soft tissues, ligaments or fascia of the patient.
25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24 further comprising a suture that extends through the bore of each anchor and is secured to the end portions of the sling.
26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24 further comprising a suture that extends through the bore of each anchor and secures the anchors to the end portions of the sling.
27. (Currently Amended) A system for inserting a sling through a perineal incision to treat a patient's incontinence comprising:
a sling having two end portions;
at least two sling anchors associated with each of the end portions of the sling, the sling anchors comprising a cylindrical body having a diameter, a length that is greater than the diameter, and a bore extending through the cylindrical body that secures the sling anchors to the end portions of the sling ~~to anchor the sling to internal soft tissues, ligaments or fascia of the~~ patient; and
a sling anchor inserter sized and shaped to hold one end of each sling anchor adjacent the bore and to internally insert the sling anchors through a perineal incision.